

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-13
SIG-03 HA-05 OPR-02 MMO-01 FS-01 AID-05 SCS-06
CA-01 A-01 SY-05 NSCE-00 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03
H-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 SSO-00 INRE-00
/134 R

DRAFTED BY STF-RKATES:LFS

APPROVED BY STF-LDJUNIOR

S/S-O - RCASTRODALE

-----022187 182134Z /46

O 182040Z MAY 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN IMMEDIATE

CINCLANT NORFOLK IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII IMMEDIATE 0000

CINCMAC SCOTT AFB IMMEDIATE

JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

SAC OFFUTT NEBRASKA IMMEDIATE

REDCOM MACDILL AFB FLA IMMEDIATE

COMJTF7A FORT BRAGG IMMEDIATE

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

USICA WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE PRIORITY

USINT HAVANA PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LOME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BANGUI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KIGALI PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 126987

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, AEMR, CG

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN SHABA AS OF 1000 HOURS (GMT)
MAY 18, 1978 (NO. 7)

1. FOLLOWING IS FOR YOUR BACKGROUND AND FOR DISCREET USE
WITH HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

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2. STATUS OF AMCITS IN SHABA

THERE ARE GROWING ACCOUNTS OF INDISCIPLINE AMONG THE
INVADING FORCES, INCREASED DANGER FOR THE SOME 3000
EXPATRIATES REMAINING IN KOLWEZI , AND OVERALL A DETERIORA-
TING SECURITY SITUATION. AMIDST THESE REPORTS AND THE
LOSS OF ALL TELECOMMUNICATION WITH KOLWEZI, THE BELGIAN
CABINET DECIDED MAY 18 TO PUT INTO EFFECT PLANS TO STAGE
AN AIR RESCUE OPERATION, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE US,
UK AND FRANCE TO BEGIN AT 0500. AS OF 0600, HOWEVER,
THE AIR OPERATION HAD NOT YET BEGUN, AND IT IS NOT CLEAR
AT THIS TIME WHETHER THE DELAY IS TEMPORARY OR IS LIKELY
TO BE PROTRACTED. ONE NEW ELEMENT THAT THE BELGIAN
CABINET IS REPORTEDLY WEIGHING AT THIS TIME IS A REPORTED

ANNOUNCEMENT BY KATANGAN GENERAL NATHANIEL MBUMBA TO THE
EFFECT THAT EXPATRIATES IN THE KOLWEZI AREA WOULD NOT
BE HARMED. GIVEN THE ABSENCE OF CONTACT WITH
KOLWEZI, WE HAVE NO MEANS OF KNOWING THE PRECISE WELFARE
OF THE REMAINING 9-12 AMERICANS THERE BUT ALSO NO
INDICATION THAT THEY ARE NOT SAFE.

2. DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION ELSEWHERE IN ZAIRE, THE SITUATION REMAINS RELATIVELY CALM, ON THE SURFACE AT LEAST. ON MAY 17 A MASS RALLY AND PARADE WERE STAGED IN KINSHASA AS AN ACT OF SOLIDARITY WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU. THIS CAME OFF WITHOUT INCIDENT. THE FAZ ANNOUNCED THAT MAJOR GENERAL SINGA HAD ASSUMED OVERALL COMMAND OF ZAIRIAN ARMED FORCES IN SHABA.

3. MILITARY SITUATION. IT APPEARS THAT ZAIRIAN MILITARY FORCES REGISTERED A MEASURE OF SUCCESS ON MAY 17, AFTER ENGAGING IN HEAVY FIGHTING WITH REBEL KATANGANS AROUND KOLWEZI. ACCORDING TO ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT SOURCES, THE KOLWEZI AIRPORT WAS RECAPTURED BY FAZ ELEMENTS LATE MAY 17. WHILE THE EXACT STATUS OF THE AIRPORT IS STILL
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OPEN TO SOME QUESTION, FAZ HEADQUARTERS AT KINSHASA HAVE ANNOUNCED RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF A DIRECT COMMUNICATION LINK WITH THE FAZ COMMAND POST IN THE SHABA MILITARY REGION.

IN ADDITION, MAJOR MAYELE HAS REPORTED THAT HIS FIVE COMPANIES HAVE POSITIONED THEMSELVES AT THE LUALABA BRIDGE, 25 KILOMETERS EAST OF KOLWEZI. THESE FORCES WERE PREPARING TO LINK UP WITH OTHER FAZ ELEMENTS IN THE REGION, INCLUDING THE ZAIRIAN PARA-COMMANDO ELEMENT.

CAPTURED FLNC MESSAGES ACQUIRED BY FAZ IN KOLWEZI INDICATE THAT FLNC CHIEF MBUMBA HAS INFORMED HIS FORCES THAT ELEMENTS OF THE US SPECIAL FORCES WERE IN A STATE OF PREPAREDNESS AND WOULD POSSIBLY INTERVENE IN THE SHABA, ALONG WITH BELGIAN AND FRENCH MILITARY FORCES. MBUMBA HAD ORDERED HIS FORCES TO BEGIN WITHDRAWAL, ACCORDING TO OTHER MESSAGES, BUT THE FAZ ANTICIPATES ADDITIONAL FIGHTING BEFORE THIS OCCURS. AS BEFORE, THE INSURGENTS' OBJECTIVES REMAIN UNCLEAR. VANCE

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 /023 R

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DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:ARTHUR HUGHES

APPROVED BY STF:WLSWING

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O 200155Z MAY 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 126987

FOL RPT STATE 126987 SENT ACTION KINSHASA LUBUMBASHI BRUSSELS
PARIS ROME LUSAKA LISBON SECDEF USCINCEUR CINCLANT CINCUSAFE
DIA CINCPAC CINCPAC JCS SAC OFFUTT NEBRASKA REDCOM MACDILL
AFB FLA COMJTF7A FORT BRAG SHAPE USUN USICA BRAZZAVILLE
HAVANA RABAT LIBREVILLE NAIROBI ACCRA MOSCOW JIDDA MONROVIA LAGOS
ABIDJAN KHARTOUM CAIRO NIAMEY YAOUNDE MAPUTO USNATO LOME
DAR ES SALAAM BANGUI BUJUMBURA KIGALI MAY 18, 1978.

QUOTE: S E C R E T STATE 126987

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, AEMR, CG

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UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Concepts: SITREP, RESCUE OPERATIONS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Drafter: RKATES:LFS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Litigation History:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2647465
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SITUATION IN SHABA AS OF 1000 HOURS (GMT) MAY 18, 1978 (NO. 7)
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, AEMR, CG
To: KINSHASA LUBUMBASHI MULTIPLE
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